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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments.

The Specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to related applications PCT/EP2004/010517, international filing date of September 17, 2004, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/506,479, filed September 26, 2003, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/537,729, filed January 20, 2004.

Claims 5, 7, and 12-16 are amended herein to correct minor editorial oversights. Support for the amendments can be found, *inter alia*, in original claims 5-7 and 12-16. No new matter has been added.

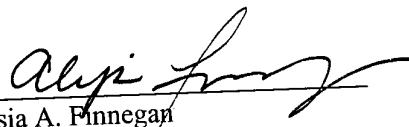
Claims 3, 6, 21, 23, and 25 are canceled herein without prejudice to pursuing the subject matter of said claims in a later filed divisional application(s).

Applicants assert all claims are in condition for allowance and a favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be of value, he is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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